

which the park area was established, or to ensure the continued viability of the plant population. For purposes of this section, the term “temporarily” shall mean only so long as reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the closure.

(1) If the Superintendent determines that an emergency situation exists and that extraordinary measures must be taken for public safety or to assure the continued viability of a particular plant population, the Superintendent may immediately close all or any portion of a park area to the subsistence uses of such population. Such emergency closure shall be effective when made, shall be for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, and may not subsequently be extended unless the Superintendent establishes, after notice and public hearing in the affected vicinity and other locations as appropriate, that such closure should be extended.

(2) Notice of administrative actions taken pursuant to this section, and the reasons justifying such actions, shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the State and at least one local newspaper if available, and information about such actions and reasons also shall be made available for broadcast on local radio stations in a manner reasonably calculated to inform local rural residents in the affected vicinity. All closures shall be designated on a map which shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent of the affected park area and the post office or postal authority of every affected community within or near the park area, or by the posting of signs in the vicinity of the restrictions, or both.

■ 13. In § 13.490, revise paragraph (a) to read as follows:

**§ 13.490 Closure to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Superintendent, after consultation with the State and the Federal Subsistence Board, and after adequate notice and public hearing in the affected vicinity and other locations as appropriate, may temporarily close all or any portion of a park area to subsistence uses of a particular fish or wildlife population only if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of such population. For purposes of this section, the term “temporarily” shall mean only so long as reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the closure.

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 13.1902 [Amended]**

■ 14. In § 13.1902, remove paragraph (d).

**Kevin J. Lilly,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

[FR Doc. 2026–21299 Filed 10–16–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4312–52–P**

**POSTAL SERVICE**

**39 CFR Part 20**

**Customs Requirements and Payment Procedures for Certain Customs Charges**

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Interim final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is revising *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, International Mail Manual (IMM®), in various sections, to update mailer responsibilities with respect to customs requirements and to establish procedures for the payment, or reimbursement, of any customs charges that are assessed, including after the purchase of postage.

**DATES:** *Effective:* October 19, 2026.

Comments must be received by November 18, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver comments to the manager of Product Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, RM 4446, Washington, DC 20260–5015. You may inspect and photocopy all written comments at USPS Headquarters Library, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor N, Washington, DC by appointment only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, by calling (202) 268–2906 in advance. Email comments, including the name and address of the commenter, to: *PCFederalRegister@usps.gov*, with a subject line of “Customs Requirements and Payment Procedures.” Faxed comments will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michelle Lassiter at (202) 268–2914.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As of July 1, 2026, the European Commission eliminated the *de minimis* exemption for most low-value goods destined to the European Union customs territory. In addition, the European Commission established a new hierarchical system for determining who is responsible for paying applicable duties, taxes, and import fees for such low-value goods. In response, many postal operators within the European Union have established, and continue to adjust, their own requirements in order to implement

these changes. For example, some destination postal operators within the European Union require that certain items, be sent using an approved *delivered duty paid* (DDP) solution pursuant to which applicable duties, taxes, and import fees must be paid by the mailer. Certain postal operators have adopted consequences such as fees and other charges that apply in certain situations, such as if inaccurate customs information is provided by the mailer. Additionally, when an item is sent on a *delivered duty unpaid* basis and duties, taxes, or import fees cannot be recovered from the addressee, the destination postal operator may seek to collect unpaid amounts from the mailer. Accordingly, the Postal Service is updating the mailer’s responsibilities with respect to customs requirements and is establishing procedures for mailers to pay, or reimburse the Postal Service, for duties, taxes, import fees, and other charges assessed on a mailpiece, where applicable. Duties, taxes, import fees, and other related charges are not included in the postage paid by the mailer; therefore, the Postal Service may invoice the mailer for such applicable amounts when they have not been paid in full using USPS Delivered Duty Paid service.

The Postal Service adopts the described changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, International Mail Manual (IMM), which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 20 to reflect these changes.

**List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20**

Foreign relations, International postal services.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 20 is amended as follows:

**PART 20—[AMENDED]**

■ 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR Part 20 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 13 U.S.C. 301–307; 18 U.S.C. 1692–1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 407, 414, 416, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, and 5001.

■ 2. Revise the following sections of the IMM as follows:

**Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM)**

\* \* \* \* \*

**1 International Mail Services**

**110 General Information**

\* \* \* \* \*

**112 Mailer Responsibility**

\* \* \* \* \*

[Revise second paragraph as follows:]

The mailer must fulfill any nonpostal export requirements described in chapter 5 and must ensure that the electronically generated customs form is complete and that all information is accurate. Certain types of goods and certain types of transactions may be subject to prohibitions, restrictions, or additional customs requirements. It is the mailer's responsibility to comply with import and export regulations and restrictions (e.g., quarantine, pharmaceutical, etc.), to determine what documents and information (e.g., commercial invoice, certificate of origin, power of attorney, health certificate, license, authorization for goods subject to quarantine such as plant, animal, or food products, product identification numbers, etc.) are required in the destination country, and to provide all such documents and information in a manner that is complete, accurate, and timely. If the mailer fails to comply with applicable requirements, prohibitions, and restrictions; fails to provide any required documentation or information; or provides false or incomplete information, various consequences could result, including that the mailpiece may be returned or confiscated and the mailer may be subject to additional charges.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Add a new paragraph after the third paragraph to read as follows:]

Where the destination country requires a mailpiece to be sent using a *delivered duty paid* solution, the mailer must send the mailpiece on a *delivered duty paid* basis and must ensure that all applicable duties, taxes, and import fees (as defined in 360) are timely paid in accordance with applicable requirements. In the event the relevant party in the destination country (for example, the customs authority, postal operator (or its agent), customs broker, or customs representative) seeks to collect duties, taxes, or import fees for a mailpiece from the mailer or the Postal Service (or their representatives), and such amounts have not been paid in full, the mailer is responsible for paying, or under certain circumstances reimbursing the Postal Service for, such amounts in accordance with 424.

\* \* \* \* \*

**130 Mailability****131 General**

\* \* \* \* \*

**131.3 Individual Country Prohibitions and Restrictions**

\* \* \* \* \*

**131.34 Foreign Customs Information**

[Revise the text to read as follows:]

Except as provided in 362 and 424, the Postal Service does not maintain or provide information concerning the assessment of duties, taxes, import fees, and other charges in other countries. If duties, taxes, import fees, or other charges are assessed, most countries will collect from the recipient a customs clearance and delivery fee in addition to the applicable duties, and taxes, import fees, or other charges. This fee may be authorized to reimburse for the costs incurred in clearing the items through customs and collecting duties at the time of delivery. The duties, taxes, import fees, and other charges, if applicable, are not included in the postage paid by the mailer.

\* \* \* \* \*

**3 Extra Services**

\* \* \* \* \*

**360 USPS Delivered Duty Paid (DDP)****361 Description**

\* \* \* \* \*

**361.1 Definitions**

\* \* \* \* \*

**361.13 Import Fees**

[Revise the text to read as follows:]

Import fees may be applied by customs brokers, customs representatives, government agencies, postal operators, customs authorities, and other service providers, and may include any and all fees and other charges imposed in connection with the customs processing and clearance of a mailpiece. These charges are based on many different factors and may apply even when duties and taxes are not applicable.

\* \* \* \* \*

**4 Treatment of Outbound Mail**

\* \* \* \* \*

**420 Unpaid and Shortpaid Mail**

\* \* \* \* \*

[Add new section 424 to read as follows:]

**424 Unpaid Destination Customs Charges****424.1 General Procedures**

Whether the mailer or addressee is responsible for paying duties, taxes, and import fees (as defined in 360) depends on various factors including, but not limited to, the customs requirements of

the destination country, as applicable. When the destination customs authority or postal operator requires mail containing goods to be delivered using a *delivered duty paid* solution, the mailer may use USPS Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) service, if available, to pay applicable duties, taxes, and import fees (see 360). If any relevant party in the destination country (for example, the customs authority, postal operator (or its agent), customs broker, or customs representative) seeks to collect duties, taxes, or import fees from the mailer or the Postal Service (or their representatives), and such amounts have not been paid in full, the Postal Service (or its representative) will send an invoice to the mailer for such amounts.

**424.2 Mailer Responsibilities**

The mailer must pay the Postal Service (or its representative) the entire amount due in accordance with the invoice terms, even if the mailer disputes the assessment. The mailer is not relieved of its obligation to pay for duties, taxes, and import fees, regardless of whether the item is delivered, lost, damaged, or returned.

**424.3 Assessments**

The Postal Service is not responsible for the accuracy of duties, taxes, import fees, or other charges calculated by entities in the destination country, such as foreign customs authority, postal operator, law enforcement, or tax authorities.

**424.4 Collections**

If payment is not received by the Postal Service (or its representative) on or before the due date as set forth in the invoice, interest on the unpaid amounts will accrue at a rate of 6 percent per annum until the amounts are paid in full, and the Postal Service shall have the right to collect from the mailer any costs incurred by the Postal Service in connection with the collection of the unpaid amounts, to the extent permitted by applicable law. The Postal Service may, but is not required to, treat any unpaid duties, taxes, and import fees as *revenue deficiencies*, in accordance with the provisions of DMM 607.3.0.

**424.5 Disputes**

The mailer may dispute with the Postal Service only accounting errors related to Postal Service invoicing by seeking a refund. The Postal Service is not responsible for the accuracy of duties, taxes, import fees, or other charges calculated by entities in the destination country, such as foreign customs, postal, law enforcement, or tax authorities. Any challenges to the total

combined sum of duties, taxes, import fees, and other charges assessed by the relevant party in the destination country (for example, the customs authority, postal operator (or its agent), customs broker, or customs representative) must be addressed directly to such party without involvement from the Postal Service.

#### 424.6 Adjustments and Credits

If the Postal Service receives a cancellation, refund, or credit for an amount that a mailer has already paid or reimbursed, the Postal Service will, if deemed practical in the Postal Service's reasonable judgment, make a corresponding adjustment or refund to the mailer, except to the extent the amount remains nonrefundable or is otherwise properly due under an applicable arrangement. When applicable duties, taxes, and import fees are paid using USPS DDP under section 360, adjustments and refunds are subject to 365.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jeffrey Boblick,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026-21310 Filed 10-16-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

## POSTAL SERVICE

### 39 CFR Part 111

#### New Mailing Standards for Live Animals

**AGENCY:** Postal Service

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is revising Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Pub 52), to improve package integrity and container identification for live animal shipments during processing and handling.

**DATES:** Effective: October 19, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Drew Mitchum, (202) 268-7351, or Jennifer Cox, (202) 268-2108.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Postal Service hereby amends Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Pub 52 or Publication 52), with the provisions set forth herein. While not codified in title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Publication 52 is a regulation of the Postal Service, and changes to it may be published in the **Federal Register**. 39 CFR 211.2(a)(2). Moreover, Publication 52 is incorporated by reference into *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) section 601.8.1, which is incorporated

by reference, in turn, into the Code of Federal Regulations. 39 CFR 111.1 and 111.3. Publication 52 is publicly available, in a read-only format, via the Postal Explorer® website at <https://pe.usps.com>. In addition, links to Postal Explorer are provided on the landing page of *USPS.com*, the Postal Service's primary customer-facing website, and on *Postal Pro*, an online informational source available to postal customers.

#### Summary of New Measures

On August 6, 2026, the Postal Service published a notice of proposed rulemaking (91 FR 50741) requiring mailers to individually address and number live animal shipments composed of multiple containers bound together for shipment, recommended mailers write the recipient's name and address directly on the packaging of adult bird shipments and prohibited the reuse of fiberboard containers for all live animal shipments.

#### Response to Comments

In response to the proposed rule, the Postal Service received 32 formal responses to the proposed changes to Pub 52. The comments received are as follows:

*Comment:* One commenter suggested that USPS establish stronger protection against temperature extremes, minimize transportation and delays, require clear emergency procedures to protect animal welfare, require appropriate employee training, review which animals are appropriate for shipment at all and consider prohibiting live animal shipments when safe transportation can't be assured.

*Response:* The Postal Service appreciates this feedback. Currently, embargo notices are issued for live animal shipments when there are travel interruptions due to weather related events or holiday transportation schedules are minimized. To the extent possible, the Postal Service limits live animal exposure to temperature extremes while in transit and ensures all animals are safely shielded from the elements while awaiting transport. Alternatively, the mailer must also ensure that the live animal shipments are protected against extreme temperatures by properly packaging them and considering both originating and destinating weather conditions when shipping, especially during summer and winter seasons. The postal service has been actively creating and providing additional education related to emergency procedures and proper handling practices for live animals.

*Comment:* Several commenters requested that the name and address

requirement be extended to all live shipments not just adult birds, urged USPS to modify its delivery time period to 48 hours for day-old poultry, require a delivery by date on the container for day-old poultry; and employ specialized tracking and data collection on lives perished to better understand the root causes of documented issues, urges climate-controlled transportation modes, requests that USPS issue moratoriums on the acceptance of lives as it deems necessary.

*Response:* The addressing requirement may be considered for all live animal shipments in a future regulatory update. The Postal Service believes the 48-hour delivery time is not necessary as the conditions of acceptance are that the day-old poultry must not be more than 24 hours old, can be delivered within 72 hours of hatching and the hatching date and hour are required to be indicated on the shipment. The Postal Service utilizes tracking data to identify live animal shipments and monitors data related to incidents to determine root causes for documented issues when shipments are accurately identified by the mailer through application of the pertinent USPS extra service codes within their electronic shipping files. Climate-controlled transportation for all modes is not currently feasible, but to the extent possible, the Postal Service limits live animal exposure to temperature extremes while in transit and ensures they are shielded from the elements while awaiting transport. Alternatively, the mailer must also ensure that the live animal shipments are protected against extreme temperatures by properly packaging them and considering both originating and destinating weather conditions when shipping, especially during summer and winter seasons. As mentioned in the previous comment response, the Postal Service does employ embargoes for live animal shipments when issues arise.

*Comment:* Several commenters suggested that USPS require advanced reservations and confirm transportation capacity.

*Response:* The Postal Service is in contact with major animal shippers and is provided advance notice of large shipments of live animals.

*Comment:* One commenter suggested that USPS includes specific test standards for all lives outer packaging and suggests an alternative to the address and phone number requirement of a barcode instead and to require each container in a multi-container shipment to have its own address label.

*Response:* The Postal Service appreciates the feedback and will